

National Medal of Arts

The National Medal of Arts honors persons and organizations who have made extraordinary contributions to the excellence, support, growth, and availability of the arts in the United States.

The National Council recommends candidates for this prestigious award to the President on the basis of nominations solicited by the National Endowment for the Arts. Final selection is made by the President of the United States. Since the award was created by Congress in

1984, Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton have collectively bestowed more than 150 National Medals on artists, arts organizations, and individual and corporate arts patrons.

In a September, 1997 White House South Lawn ceremony, President William J. Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton publicly committed to the historic record the names and contributions of the year's National Medal of Arts honorees.

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National Medal of Arts

11 awards (non-monetary)

Louise Bourgeois

New York, NY

Sculptor and Visual Artist

Betty Carter

Brooklyn, NY

Jazz Vocalist

Agnes Gund

New York, NY

Patron of the Arts

Daniel Urban Kiley

Charlotte, VT

Landscape Architect

Angela Lansbury

Los Angeles, CA

Actor

James Levine

New York, NY

Artistic Director for Opera and Pianist

MacDowell Colony

Peterborough, NH

Artists' Colony/Arts Organization

Tito Puente

New York, NY

Latin Percussionist and Musician

Jason Robards

Southport, CT

Actor

Edward Villella

Miami, FL

Artistic Director for Ballet and Dancer

Doc Watson

Deep Gap, NC

Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Guitarist and Vocalist



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Tito Puente, Latin percussionist, enjoys applause after President William J. Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton present him with the National Medal of Arts. White House photo.